

# P Y G

**PU'RIDNESS.** *n. f.* [from *putrid*.] Rottenness.  
Nidorous ructus depend on the fetid spirituality of the ferment, and the *putridness* of the meat. *Player on the Humours.*

**PUTTER.** *n. f.* [from *put*.]  
1. One who puts.  
The most wretched sort of people are dreamers upon events and *putters* of cases. *L'Estrange.*  
2. **PUTTER on.** Inciter; instigator.  
My good lord cardinal, they vent reproaches  
Most bitterly on you, as *putter on*.  
Of these exactions. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*  
You are abus'd, and by some *putter on*,  
That will be damn'd for't. *Shakefp. Winter's Tale.*

**PU'TTINGSTONE.** *n. f.*  
In some parts of Scotland, stones for the same purpose are laid at the gates of great houses, which they call *puttingstones*, for trials of strength. *Pope.*

**PU'TTUCK.** *n. f.* [derived, by *Minshew*, from *buteo*, Lat.] A buzzard.  
Who finds the partridge in the *puttuck's* nest,  
But may imagine how the bird was dead. *Shakefp.*  
The next are those, which are called birds of prey, as the eagle, hawk, *puttuck*, and cormorant. *Peacham.*

**PU'TTY.** *n. f.*  
1. A kind of powder on which glass is ground.  
An object glass of a fourteen foot telescope, made by an artificer at London, I once mended considerably, by grinding it on pitch with *putty*, and leaning on it very easily in the grinding, lest the *putty* should scratch it. *Newton.*  
2. A kind of cement used by glaziers.

**PU'ZZLE.** *v. a.* [for *posse*, from *posse*. *Skinner.*]  
1. To perplex; to confound; to embarrass; to entangle; to gravel; to put to a stand; to tease.  
Your presence needs must *puzzle* Antony. *Shakefp.*  
I say there is no darkness but ignorance, in which thou art more *puzzled* than the Egyptians in their fog. *Shakefp.*  
Both armies of the enemy would have been *puzzled* what to have done. *Clarendon, b. viii.*  
A very shrewd disputant in those points is dexterous in *puzzling* others, if they be not thorough-paced speculators in those great theories. *Mor's Divine Dialogues.*  
He is perpetually *puzzled* and perplexed amidst his own blunders, and mistakes the sense of those he would confute. *Addison.*  
Persons, who labour under real evils, will not *puzzle* themselves with conjectural ones. *Clarissa.*  
2. To make intricate; to entangle.  
The ways of heaven are dark and intricate,  
*Puzzled* in mazes, and perplex'd with error. *Addison.*  
These, as my guide informed me, were men of subtle tempers, and *puzzled* politicks, who would supply the place of real wisdom with cunning and avarice. *Tatler, N° 81.*  
I did not indeed at first imagine there was in it such a jargon of ideas, such an inconsistency of notions, such a confusion of particles, that rather *puzzle* than connect the sense, which in some places he seems to have aimed at, as I found upon my nearer perusal of it. *Addison.*  
To *PU'ZZLE.* *v. n.* To be bewildered in one's own notions; to be aukward.  
The servant is a *puzzling* fool, that heeds nothing. *L'Estr.*  
**PU'ZZLE.** *n. f.* [from the verb.] Embarrassment; perplexity.  
Men in great fortunes are strangers to themselves, and while they are in the *puzzle* of business, they have no time to tend their health either of body or mind. *Bacon's Essays.*

**PUZZLER.** *n. f.* [from *puzzle*.] He who puzzles.

**PY'GARG.** *n. f.* A bird. *Ainsworth.*

**PY'GMEAN.** *adj.* [from *pygmy*.] Belonging to a pygmy.  
They, less than smallest dwarfs in narrow room,  
Throng numberless like that *pygmean* race  
Beyond the Indian mount. *Milton.*

# P Y X

**PY'GMY.** *n. f.* [from *pygme*, Fr. *pygmée*.] A dwarf; one of a nation fabled to be only three spans high, and after long wars to have been destroyed by cranes.  
If they deny the present spontaneous production of larger plants, and confine the earth to as *pygmy* births in the vegetable kingdom, as they do in the other; yet surely in such a supposed universal decay of nature, even mankind itself that is now nourished, though not produced, by the earth, must have degenerated in stature and strength in every generation. *Bailey.*

**PYLO'RUS.** *n. f.* [from *pylos*, Gr. *πύλος*.] The lower orifice of the stomach.

**PY'POWDER.** See *PIEPOWDER*.

**PYRAMID.** *n. f.* [from *pyramide*, Fr. *pyramide*, from *πύρ*, fire; because fire always ascends in the figure of a cone.] In geometry, is a solid figure, whose base is a polygon, and whose sides are plain triangles, their several points meeting in one. *Harris.*  
Know, Sir, that I will not wait pinion'd at your matter's court; rather make my country's high *pyramid* my gibbet, and hang me up in chains. *Shakefp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
An hollow crystal *pyramid* he takes,  
In firmament waters dipt above,  
Of it a broad extinguisher he makes,  
And hoods the flames. *Dryden.*  
Part of the ore is shot into quadrilateral *pyramids*. *Woodw.*

**PYRAMIDAL.** *adj.* [from *pyramid*.] Having the form of a *pyramidal*.  
Of which sort likewise are the gems or stones, that are here shot into cubes, into *pyramidal* forms, or into angular columns. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

**PYRAMIDICAL.** *adj.* [from *pyramidal*.] In form of a *pyramid*.  
Olympus is the largest, and therefore he makes it the basis upon which *Ossa* stands, that being the next to Olympus in magnitude, and *Pelion* being the least, is placed above *Ossa*, and thus they rise *pyramidally*. *Bacon's Notes on Odyss.*

**PYRAMIS.** *n. f.* A pyramid.  
The form of a *pyramis* in flame, which we usually see, is merely by accident, and that the air about, by quenching the sides of the flame, crusheth it, and extenuateth it into that form, for of itself it would be round, and therefore smoke is in the figure of a *pyramis* reversed; for the air quencheth the flame, and receiveth the smoke. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

**PYRE.** *n. f.* [from *pyra*, Lat.] A pile to be burnt.  
When his brave son upon the funeral *pyre*  
He saw extended, and his beard on fire. *Dryden.*  
With tender billet-doux he lights the *pyre*,  
And breathes three am'rous sighs to raise the fire. *Pope.*

**PYRITES.** *n. f.* [from *πύρ*.] Firestone.  
*Pyrites* contains sulphur, sometimes arsenick, always iron, and sometimes copper. *Woodward.*

**PYROMANCY.** *n. f.* [from *πύρ* and *μαντεία*.] Divination by fire.  
Divination was invented by the Persians, and is seldom or never taken in a good sense: there are four kinds of divination, hydromancy, *pyromancy*, aeromancy, geomancy. *Ayliffe.*

**PYROTECHNICAL.** *adj.* [from *pyrotechnique*, Fr. from *pyrotechnick*.] Engaged or skilful in fireworks.

**PYROTECHNICKS.** *n. f.* [from *πύρ* and *τεχνή*.] The art of employing fire to use or pleasure; the art of fireworks.

**PYROTECHNY.** *n. f.* [from *pyrotechnie*, Fr.] The art of managing fire.  
Great discoveries have been made by the means of *pyrotechny* and chymistry, which in late ages have attained to a greater height than formerly. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

**PYRRHONISM.** *n. f.* [from *Pyrrho*, the founder of the scepticks.] Scepticism; universal doubt.

**PYX.** *n. f.* [from *pyxis*, Latin.] The box in which the Romanists keep the host. *9*

